

VZCZCXRO9356  
RR RUEHSR  
DE RUEHLI #0066 0301449  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 301449Z JAN 09  
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7336  
INFO RUEHXP/ALL NATO POST COLLECTIVE  
RUEHTI/AMEMBASSY TIRANA 0076  
RUEHVB/AMEMBASSY ZAGREB 0153

UNCLAS LISBON 000066

SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [KTIA](#) [MARR](#) [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [PO](#)  
SUBJECT: PORTUGAL EXPECTS TO HANDLE NATO ACCESSION  
PROCEDURES ON TIME

REF: SECSTATE 7128

Relevant Portuguese Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) interlocutors told us the protocols for Albania and Croatia to join NATO were delivered to parliament on January 7. Once the legislation has been passed and signed by the President, they will be ready to deposit the instruments. While they do not have a specific date to complete the process, they told us parliamentary leaders were aware of the timelines involved (NATO Foreign Ministerial March 5 and NATO Summit April 2) and they expected to meet the deadline.  
STEPHENSON